

Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: June 15, 2015

Time: 7:32 PM

Place: Town Manager's Conf. Rm., Ipswich Town Hall

Attendees:

Members: Carolyn Britt
Wayne Castonguay
Co-Chairs

Bill Holton
Andy Brengle
Ralph Williams

Staff:
Beth O'Connor

Associates:
Larry Eliot
Sissy ffolliott
Ed Monnelly
Dave Standley

Planning Board Liaison:
Kathy Chadwick

Observers: Prospective members Katie Hones and Casey Wright

Meeting Agenda

As the first order of business, Castonguay asked the Committee to enter Executive Session immediately to accommodate Dave Santomenna of TTOR.

Holton moved; Williams seconded; Unanimous vote in favor

Committee entered executive session at 7:37 P.M., and returned to open session at 8:34 P.M.

1. Citizens' Queries-None

OSC Meeting Minutes of April 27 were approved on motion of Williams, seconded by Holton; unanimous vote.

Beth O'Connor to post updates to May 18 meeting (gathering). Not official minutes since it was not an official meeting. (lack of quorum). O'Connor said she also had posted

minutes from a backlog of several OSC meetings in response to an inquiry about lack of such information on the Town website.

Staffing Update

O'Connor asked Glenn Gibbs about progress on filling the Open Space Manager position, who asked Jen Breaker about it. Gibbs said the position offering would be "posted soon".

Open Space Budget

Britt and Castonguay reported attending a Selectmen meeting after the May OSC meeting/gathering to hear Gibbs present the OSC budget. Others also attended, and the consensus was that the presentation before the BOS was a missed opportunity to promote the value and necessity of the open space program, and to implore Town authorities (especially those with fiscal decision-making power) to hire a full-time open space manager—now unfilled since June 2014.

Parcel Additions

Members noted that the inholding on Steep Hill—the so-called 20.5-acre Tract II—should be put on the Bond list. If possible, it should be entered in the warrant for fall Special Town Meeting.

The Bruni property off Essex Road, behind the small commercial complex that includes Lahey Clinic, was mentioned as a potential addition to the Bond list. It is owned by the Bruni Trust. Attendees were uncertain as to the acreage: possibly 12-14 acres including the Clapp property next door. The parcel is a high priority on the Athletic Fields Study Committee list. Attempts to develop the property have been unsuccessful. Access issues have been among those complicating improved uses. It could be a potential site for new athletic fields. The agricultural community doesn't seem interested in it. O'Connor was to bring more information on the parcel's status to the next OSC meeting.

Membership

Prospective OSC members Katie Hone and Casey Wright affirmed their willingness to serve as full members on the committee. Their terms will start July 1, 2015. They must be sworn in by the Town Clerk. All full members were reminded to get sworn in by July 1 for their 2015-2016 membership.

Outreach

Opportunities for Open Space Program outreach are available in the form of tables at the weekly Farmer's Market running Wednesdays from June to October and Olde Ipswich Days, July 24-26 on the South Green. Will Holton was to follow up on creating a sign-up sheet for attending to the table for the Farmer's Market. Obtaining a table at Olde

Ipswich Days was viewed as more challenging and OSC may have missed the deadline already.

OSRP Action Items

The Committee spent the rest of the meeting reviewing action items under Goal 3 of the Seven Year Action Plan (“Protect and Manage Critical Natural Resources”) in Section 9 of the 2013 Open Space & Recreation Plan. Attendees discussed the status of items 3-1 a through 3-2b. Item 3-1a.”Make Open Space Zoning a Priority” was amended by adding an OSC subcommittee to work with Planning and Zoning. Item 3-1b was deleted as not needed.

Items Not Reasonably Anticipated

Standley reported that the BOS has favorably received a newly revised handbook for boards and committees with updated guidance on municipal procedures and meeting protocols, drafted by the Government Study Committee..

Adjournment

On motion of Williams, seconded by Brengle, and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Brengle, Secretary pro tem
David Standley